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as to be comparatively unintelligible. The diagrams, which are numerous, are clear-cut, but the perspective is not good, and in most cases the reader does not get a conception of distance. They look as though they were to represent sections of small models rather than views of large areas. This criticism is applicable to all the diagrams bringing in perspective that we have noted.

In conclusion it may be said that the book is one that will find many uses and be of great help in making scientific geology and physiography intelligent and interesting. It is not a book, however, that could be used alone in the elementary preparation of pupils for professional work, and therein lies its weakness. In most high schools and normal schools, especially where the teacher has but little knowledge of out-of-doors and little knowledge of geology apart from that gained from text-books, this treatise will be of great assistance. Prof. Tarr has written his book to appeal to a special audience and a large one, and he will probably succeed. From the standpoint of the writer, therefore, there is little criticism to offer. It is to be regretted, however, from the scientific standpoint, that an author who is so successful in writing to a popular audience, should not be more inclined to lead his readers into untrodden fields, and thereby advance the cause of science.

R. E. D.

Rocks, Rock-Weathering and Soils. By George P. Merrill, Curator of Geology in the United States National Museum. The Macmillan Co. 8vo, 411 pp. Price, $4.00.

This is one of the most useful and satisfactory manuals that has appeared in recent years, possessing as much interest for the geographer as for the geologist. The author has summarized a wide range of facts with such care and fullness of references as to make the book valuable to the special student. Nor has he neglected the general reader, who will find simple and precise explanations of the things which he wishes to know about soils and the rocks from which they are derived. Part I deals with rocks in general, their chemical elements, constituent minerals, physical properties and mode of occurrence. Part II deals with the classification and description of the chief kinds of rocks,—aqueous, igneous, æolian and metamorphic. The author states that the work is not a petrology, but that the study of rocks is simply introductory to the rest of the volume. There is, perhaps, no other work which so well defines the variations and limitations in the use of many terms commonly applied to rocks and rock structures. The account of clays, given on pages 135–139, affords an excellent illustration. Part III treats of the weathering of rocks, by the atmosphere, its gases, changes of temperature and winds, by the chemical and mechanical action of water, and by organisms. Suitable emphasis is here put upon many phenomena which often receive scanty treatment, as notably the destructive effects of temperature changes and of solution. An interesting chapter is devoted to the physical manifestations of weathering. Certain channel ways for rivers and inlets in Canada are due to the decay of dikes, as cited from Professor Bell. The formation of granite domes by weathering is explained, and Stone Mountain, Georgia, 2 miles long and 650 feet high, shown in Plate 1, is a noteworthy illustration, which should take the geographer's eye and interest him in the inquiry for the causes of land forms. Water channels in caverns, and rolling contours due to solution of the underlying rocks, are described in this connection. Time considerations are then taken up, with treatment of the rate of weathering as due to texture and composition, humidity, position, and to warm and cold climates. The closing part treats of the Regolith, a term which the author proposes for that great blanket of unconsolidated drift and residual material which covers the hard, rocky crust of the globe. The regolith is composed (1) of sedentary material, including the residuum from leaching of soluble matter, and accumulations, in place of organic débris; and (2), transported material, glacial, æolian, alluvial and colluvial, the last term being applied to talus and cliff débris. These varieties are fully described and that superficial film of the regolith known as soil, receives valuable treatment under the heads—chemical nature, mineral composition, physical condition, weight, kinds, color, age and effects of organisms. Analyses of type rocks and soils are numerous throughout. There are also 25 full-page plates, 42 cuts in the text and an author's and a subject index.

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Note.—NEW YORK STATE SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.—On December 30 and 31, 1896, the newly organized New York State Science Teachers Association met at Syracuse. The attendance was large and the interest and enthusiasm were great. One session was devoted to a discussion of the Earth Sciences for secondary schools. The subject was opened by a paper prepared by Prof. R. S. Tarr of Cornell University, read by Dr. F. M. McMurry of Buffalo. Prof. Tarr advocated the teaching of physiography in the first year of the high-school course, believing that this subject, taught in the modern way, is more helpful than any other in awakening the minds of pupils. He spoke very strongly for more concentrated work in some one division of science in the secondary schools, and scored most forcibly the so-called "fourteen weeks" in science. He believed that science could be made to give as valuable training as any other branch of knowledge, if rightly taught.

The second paper was by Prof. Richard E. Dodge of the Teachers College, New York City, who spoke from the standpoint of the trainer of teachers in geography for the grade schools. He outlined the course that would, to his mind, best prepare the students for an appreciation of geographic features. Such a course should include meteorology, geology, physiography and the application especially toward some particular continent.

Following the second paper discussion in five-minute speeches, no one speaking a second time, occupied two hours.

At the closing session it was voted that the President appoint a committee of nine to consider the present status of science teaching in New York State, with suggestions for improvement, to report at the next meeting. In this committee, it is expected that the earth, biological and physical sciences, will be equally represented. A new board of officers, with Prof. E. L. Nichols of Cornell University as President, was elected for the ensuing year. Prof. Franklin W. Barrows of 45 Park St., Buffalo, is Secretary and Treasurer, and will be glad to answer any inquiries.

Note.—THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA announces that it will hold a meeting at Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 21–26, 1897, to commemorate the discovery of the Atlantic Coast of Eastern North America by John Cabot in 1497.

An appropriate brass tablet will be placed with due ceremony by the Royal Society in the Legislative Building, now the oldest structure of the kind in the oldest maritime city of the region first seen by the famous Italian navigator.

Invitations have been extended to the Corporation of the City of Bristol, from which Cabot sailed in *The Matthew*, to notable geographical and historical societies in Europe and America, as well as to the City of Venice, and it is expected that a number of distinguished gentlemen will be present at the meeting of the Society.